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U.S. DELEGATION, GENEVA

NC

Date: July 15, 1959

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 209
Consulate General
Annex

SMALL STAFF MEETING

Present:

The Secretary

Mr. Merchant
Mr. Reinhardt
Mr. Berding
Mr. Becker

Mr. Smith
Mr. Irwin
Mr. Stimpson

Norwegian Ship through Suez

1. The Secretary expressed interest in the report that the Norwegian ship "Pronto" had passed through the Suez Canal. Hammarskjold apparently had not anticipated this when he talked to the Secretary yesterday.

Press Comment

2. Mr. Berding said the European press today was pre-occupied with the German paper and there was considerable speculation on a rift in the Western ranks. Rumors are rife in the Geneva press corps about allied disunity, with most correspondents believing that the French are opposed to the plan for a commission with German advisers.

Mr. Berding said there would be a special USIA cable with pertinent extracts of the President's press conference today.

Nixon Trip

3. The Secretary said that Vice President Nixon may stop here enroute from Moscow. The Secretary had recommended that he not stop in individual European capitals. It was agreed that there would be less press speculation on the reason for a Nixon stop here if it were announced ahead of time.

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Conference Developments

4. The Secretary expressed concern at recent German behavior and mentioned specifically the report of a proposal by Ernst Lemmer for a technical agreement between East and West Germany to "end espionage and other cold war activities". He thought it might be advisable to consult with Ambassador Bruce and asked Mr. Merchant to invite the Ambassador to come to Geneva.

According to Messrs. Bundy and Reinhardt, there are indications from several Soviet sources that the Soviets will not hold out long against private sessions and that Gromyko's original reaction was a tactical one.

Regarding the Coordinating Committee Meeting this morning at which he would be US representative, Mr. Reinhardt thought it best to see if there were any suggestions on the draft communique we have circulated.

Force Levels in Berlin

5. Mr. Irwin reported that General Hamlett in Berlin had spoken strongly against a substantial decrease in our forces there. Any sizeable decrease would force him to remove a battletroop of 1500 men. However, General Kddelman in Heidelberg was not as concerned since he thought it would be possible to offset some troop reduction by an increase in Berlin police strength. According to Mr. Irwin, the JCS is inclined to back General Hamlett's view. Mr. Irwin said he believes the decision on troop reduction must be made on political and psychological grounds.

After a discussion of the possibility of reducing the number of service troops, the Secretary concluded by saying that we should have a clear picture of what the exact relationships are between the forces of the three Western powers in Berlin.

Mr. Merchant announced that he would meet with Messrs. Irwin, Becker and Smith this afternoon for a study of the military aspects of our June 16 proposal.

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